

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Presented below is a complete set of claims with current status indicators.

1. – 2. (canceled)
3. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 7, wherein the atrial pacing occurs at a frequency that is at least double a respiratory frequency.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 7, wherein the atrial pacing occurs at a rate that varies with respect to an intrinsic rate.
5. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 7, wherein the atrial pacing occurs at a rate that varies with respect to time.
6. (canceled)
7. (previously presented) A method comprising:  
delivering one or more pacing pulses to an atrium;  
determining one or more atrioventricular conduction interval times based on the one or more pacing pulses;  
determining a respiratory characteristic based at least in part on the one or more atrioventricular conduction interval times; and  
discriminating between obstructive apnea and central apnea.
8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the discriminating relies at least in part on a measurement related to chest movement.
9. – 24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented) An implantable cardiac stimulation system comprising:

- sensing circuitry operative to sense atrial and ventricular events;
- a processor connected to the sensing circuitry and operative to:
  - determine one or more atrioventricular conduction interval times based on the atrial and ventricular events;
  - determine a respiratory characteristic based at least in part on the one or more atrioventricular conduction interval times;
  - determine whether the respiratory characteristic indicates apnea; and
  - discriminate between obstructive apnea and central apnea.

26. – 32. (canceled)